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TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [TW](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: NORTH KOREA

Summary: Taiwan's major Chinese-language dailies focused May 30 to June 1 news coverage on President Ma Ying-jeou's visit to Central America; on the development of cross-Strait relations; and on local law enforcement's seizure of the popular energy drink from Austria, Red Bull, after the drink was found to containing tiny traces of cocaine. In terms of editorials and commentaries, an op-ed in the pro-unification "United Daily News" commented on North Korea's recent series of provocative moves. The op-ed said North Korea is just using dramatic moves to get what it wants and needs from the international community in order to achieve domestic cohesion and overcome its internal problems, such as Kim Jong-il's health and the decision about his successor. The op-ed said the international community should still use diplomacy with North Korea, because the country does not really want to launch another Korean War at the moment. End summary.

"North Korea's Big Move; Taking Advantage from Inside and Outside?"

Lee Ming, professor of the Department of Diplomacy at the National Chengchi University, opined in the pro-unification "United Daily News" [circulation: 400,000] (5/31):

"... Will the Korean Peninsula resemble a game of chicken...? It does not seem that the situation will be that bad. ...The United States understands that it cannot subdue North Korea simply by putting pressure [on North Korea]. Although it needs China to act as a matchmaker to bring North Korea back to the negotiation table and launch the new round of six-party talks, the United States does not rule out [the possibility] of finding a new path to holding bilateral talks with North Korea, which is also what North Korea wants. ...

"North Korea is unlikely to launch another Korean War. After all, today's South Korea is not what it was before [and] North Korea is no longer the rival it once was, lined up against South Korea and the United States. What North Korea wants is for the United States to resume economic aid; cease economic sanctions; and even establish diplomatic ties as soon as possible. North Korea hopes the Obama administration will not forget that these wishes are what the United States promised North Korea during the Clinton Administration in 1994. ..."

YOUNG